

# County of Santa Clara

## Public Health Department

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## **Public Health Department Reinforces Water Safety During Drowning Prevention Month**

SAN JOSE, CA- This is the time of year that children are at risk of drowning. In just the past week, three children have drown in Northern California. It is such a critical issue that the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors has proclaimed the month of May as Drowning Prevention Month.

The Santa Clara County Public Health Department's Child Injury Prevention (CIP) Workgroup emphasizes child drowning prevention and water safety by offering offer water safety tips and introducing "Pool Safety Kits". The kits include information on general water safety, pool safety, pool safety equipment and "Water Watcher" tags. The CIP Workgroup is distributing the "Pool Safety Kits" throughout the community in efforts to prevent tragic drowning and near-drowning incidents. Drowning and near-drowning can occur in any body of water including hot tubs, bathtubs, toilets, even water buckets.

Drowning is a major cause of childhood injury and death. In the United States, approximately 5,000 children under 14 years of age are hospitalized due to near drowning. In California, the number one cause of unintentional injury-related death among children under five years of age is drowning. In Santa Clara County, drowning is the leading cause of injury-related death for children under five years of age and the second leading cause of injury-related death for children and youth under 20 years of age.

The health outcomes of near-drowning can also be devastating. Children who survive can suffer permanent and severe injuries such as brain damage and long-term disabilities.

For more information on childhood drowning prevention, please call 1-800-310-2332.